

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC (BOYD, DOUGLAS A., PARKER, EDMOND T., RASCO,
LAVON)

SUBJECT: 1976-77 U.S. PROFESSOR PROGRAM

REF: (A) CAIRO 15902, (B) STATE 251870, (C) STATE 280542,
(D) CAIRO 13184, (E) STATE 184733, (F) CAIRO 8860,
(G) STATE 148201

1. REFTEL (A) INDICATES THERE STILL MISUNDERSTANDING WITH REGARD TO EXCHANGE RATE PROBLEM WHICH CU/NEA BELIEVED HAD BEEN SETTLED SATISFACTORILY. EMBASSY IS THUS REFERRED TO REFTEL (E) WHICH GAVE SUMMARY OF DEPARTMENT POLICY ON USE OF TREASURY RATE FOR FULBRIGHT PROFESSORS. EMBASSY IS ALSO REFERRED TO REFTEL (G) WHICH FIRST RAISED QUESTION OF PROBLEMS BEING ENCOUNTERED DUE TO RATE. BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL TO CLARIFY BELOW SEVERAL POINTS MENTIONED IN REFTEL (A).

2. REFTEL (A) PARA (1) IS MISLEADING. BOYD'S LETTER TO CU/NEA ;ERG INDICATED THAT NO ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN ON EMBASSY REQUEST THAT STIPEND BE PAID IN DOLLARS. IN FACT
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REFTEL (E) SENT JULY 26 WAS IN DIRECT RESPONSE TO EMBASSY'S

REQUEST. CU/NEA SAW NO REASON TO REPEAT INFORMATION ALREADY AT POST. GEORGE WISHON, CURRENTLY CONSULTING IN WASHINGTON, ALSO INFORMS CU/NEA THAT BOYD WAS SHOWN THE TELEGRAM. BOYD THUS KNOWS WHAT THE DEPARTMENT POSITION IS AND THE REASONS GIVEN. A SECOND ACTION TAKEN BY CU/NEA WAS TO AUTHORIZE THAT A PORTION OF THE STIPEND BE PAID IN DOLLARS. POST WILL RECALL THAT ENTIRE STIPEND FOR FY 1975 PROFESSORS WAS IN LOCAL CURRENCY. THIS STEP WAS EXPLAINED TO BOYD AND RASCO AT ORIENTATION ON AUGUST 27, 1976.

3. REFTEL (A) PARA (2) GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT CU WAS NOT ENTIRELY OPEN ABOUT THE SITUATION. WE INDICATED THAT THE TREASURY RATE CONVERTED ONE L.E. TO DOLS 1.80 (US). THE LAST INFORMATION CU HAD WAS THAT THE ACCOMMODATION RATE WAS DOLS 1.69 TO THE L.E., NOT A QUANTUM DIFFERENCE. NO ONE PRETENDED THAT THE SITUATION WAS PERFECT AND ALL AGREED THAT INFLATION WAS A SERIOUS PROBLEM, ESPECIALLY AS IT AFFECTS RENTS. WE SHOULD ALSO POINT OUT THAT SCHOLARS ARE NOT ASKED TO PAY RENT THIS YEAR SINCE CU DEDUCTED THEIR HOUSING ALLOWANCE AND USES THAT PLUS A SUBSIDY IN THE IBA CONTRACT TO RELIEVE THEM OF THIS ADDED BURDEN.

4. REFTEL (A) PARA (4) - THE INCREASE IN THE MONTHLY STIPEND IS, INDEED, IN RESPONSE TO THE EXCHANGE RATE PROBLEM. IT WAS APPROVED FOR ONLY THREE MONTHS ON THE OFF CHANCE THAT THE EXCHANGE RATE MAY CHANGE AGAIN. IF SO, BY REVIEWING THE MATTER ON A QUARTERLY BASIS, THE INCREASE WOULD BE ADJUSTED TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THE PROFESSORS.

5. REFTEL (A) PARA (5) - AS EXPLAINED IN REFTEL (E), REGULATIONS PREVENT CU FROM GIVING FULL DOLLAR STIPENDS AT THIS TIME AND PROHIBIT USE OF CURRENT EMBASSY RATE. WE HOPE THAT THE INCREASE IN THE LOCAL CURRENCY PORTION OF THE GRANT WILL OFFSET THE LOSS. KISSINGER

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